extended the hand of friendship to Pakistan. In his statement in Parliament on May 2, he had announced the decision to appoint a High Commissioner to Pakistan and to restore civil aviation links on a reciprocal basis. It had also been made clear that India would pursue a step-by-step approach to normalisation of links and that creation of conducive environment for a sustained dialogue necessarily required an end to cross-border infiltration and dismantling of the infrastructure of support to terrorism. Subsequently, on May 26, Government announced willingnes to resume the Delhi-Lahore bus service.

Following Prime Minister's initiative both countires have appointed High Commissioners. The Delhi-Lahore bus service has been resumed with effect from July 11. Pakistan has indicated willingnes to host technical level discussions for resumption of civil aviation, although proposals for specific dates are still awaited. Both sides have released prisoners. There have also been important exchanges in the context of business, cultural and people to-people contacts.

Attitude of Pak President towards India

467. SHRIMATI JAMANA DEVI BARUPAL:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether after meeting USA President, the President of Pakistan has changed his attitude towards India;

(b) if so, whether Pakistan President has assured total stoppage of infiltration and aid to extremists;

(c) whether India has rejected Pakistan's third party mediation of Kashmir issue, as proposed by the Pakistan President's to USA;

(d) if so, to what extent India has checked the situation about infiltration and Pakistan's involvement in dismantling training camps in both Pakistan and PoK;

(e) whether USA has provided financial aid and refused military aid to Pakistan; and

(f) if so, to what extent India has condemned this move?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA): (a) No.

(b) Despite such assurances on several occasions, Pakistan countinues to support cross border infiltration and maintain the infrastructure of support to terrorism.

(c) and (d) India's position has been consistent. Under Simla agreement and as reiterated in the Lahore declaration, both India and Pakistan are committed to addressing bilateral issues through peaceful bilateral dialogue. There is no scope for any third party role or mediation.

(e) According to information available, between September 2001 and September 2004, the US direct bilateral assistance would be about US$ 2 billion, including US$ 375 million military aid through Foreign Military Financing.

(f) India has drawn attention to the negative impact of the economic and military assistance provided by US to Pakistan on the long term anti-terrorism efforts, democratization process in Pakistan, and Pakistan's approach to relations with India.

Base camps of insurgent groups in Myanmar

468. SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of insurgent groups operating in different north-eastern States are having their base camps at Myanmar;

(b) whether Myanmar Government has been approached not to give shelter to these insurgent outfits in Myanmar; and

(c) if so, what has been the response from Myanmar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA): (a) Reports have appeared from time to time indicating presence of some Indian Insurgent Groups in the area along the Indo-Myanmar Border.

(b) India is maintaining a continuous dialogue with Myanmar on Security Cooperation through diplomatic channels and institutional mechanisms. These include National Level Meetings (NLM) and Sectoral